GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5084
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2002
PROMOTION OF TRADE BETWEEN BANGLADESH AND NE STATES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the scope to promote trade and investment between Bangladesh and North Eastern States in India;

(b) if so, the possibilities explored in that regard;

(c) whether any joint task force has been constituted to promote bilateral trade between both the countries; and

(d) if so, the details of the action initiated by the joint task force?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY)

a) Yes sir.

b) Central Government has taken specific steps to promote trade and investment in the North Eastern Region with its neighbouring countries by developing infrastructure and facilitating interaction between the business community of the two countries. There are 37 border points developed and open for promotion of border trade with the neighbouring countries through North Eastern Region. Out of these 37 land customs stations, 14 on the Indo-Bangladesh border are operational. A proposal to operationalise 5 more additional land customs stations on the Indo-Bangladesh border is under consideration. India and Bangladesh have also agreed to activate on priority basis the Agartala-Akhaura land customs stations both by road and rail. Although there is no formal agreement on the opening up of border trade with Bangladesh at present, a considerable amount of trade is taking place with Bangladesh. Such trade takes place either through authorised customs station or otherwise. Department of Commerce has approved infrastructure development of Old Raghna Bazar Land Customs Station in Tripura for Rs. 896 lakhs,Integrated development at Agartala for Rs. 297 lakhs, Trade center at Sutarkhandi and Mankachar in Assam for Rs. 653 lakhs and Rs. 340 lakhs andweighbridge at Dawki in Meghalaya for Rs. 15.50 lakhs under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme.

c) & d) No joint task force has been constituted to promote trade between India and Bangladesh.